

May 20, 1975

PRESIDENT: Senator George.

SENATOR GEORGE: Am I closing Mr. President?

PRESIDENT: No, there are more lights.

SENATOR GEORGE: I'd rather wait for closing.

PRESIDENT: Senator Cavanaugh.

SENATOR CAVANAUGH: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, Senator Marvel raised the question of my raising ulterior motives which I don't think in this particular issue I did. On occasion I might be susceptible to that. On occasion there are ulterior motives. I think that there is a remote possibility that there is one involved in this bill, one that hasn't been discussed. I'll take a shot in the dark at Senator Marvel the titular head of the Republican party. It appears to me that there could be, happening here in the Legislature, a fear among some of the stronger Republican Senators. If we made it easier for people to register and vote there's a strong possibility that they'd register as Democrats. Of course, that would be undesirable because we'd much rather have a state where people aren't registered and don't vote than raise the horrible specter that they might register and vote as Democrats. Maybe it's because that Democrats generally are working people, people who generally are occupied with earning a living, and perhaps don't have the time. Or people who would be Democrats don't have the time to take off to go to a registration facility or the courthouse, but are more occupied in earning their employment, or earning their living. The fear is I think just among certain Republicans. I think it's a legitimate question to raise since it appears that everyone who has spoken here, and particularly the titular head of the Republican party, have not really expressed any good arguments other than we might make it too easy. We might get somebody registered to vote who shouldn't be. As Senator Schmit, my great disappointment -- the great populace that he is, raises the possibility that we might have mass voting. Why I couldn't think of anything worse in a democracy than the whole mass of people going to the polls and expressing their will as to the form of government or the representatives that they would want. Senator Schmit has been a good member of the Republican party and is probably enhancing his status here today by decrying this horrible possibility of mass voting. I just throw this out as one of the possible issues that is underlaid here and floated around. Now there's some danger in raising this issue because the majority of members of the Legislature are Republicans. If they vote to strike this, and if this amendment is stricken, I think that properly some of the credit should go to the Republican party led by Senator Marvel, whose also a great leader in the Legislature. I would hope that those among you who honor your non-partisanship and also honor your belief that the electoral process should be so designed as to make it accessible to the greatest number of people with the least trouble, will prevail. I